

Mr. Clarke:

The Commonwealth should look critically at the wind-power potential of state lands at ridgetop locations in the western region. No source of energy is perfectly "clean", but wind energy is pretty close, particularly for those lands that are near roads and transmission lines. I would guess that wetlands, difficult access and endangered species will rule out more than 60% of the potential ridgetop area, but the initiative provides a great opportunity to look hard at the remaining areas. The turbines at Hull and at Jiminy Peak demonstrate that it is possible to generate large amounts of power from small amounts of land while other activities continue next to the turbine and in the "neighborhood".

The Commonwealth should do what it can to encourage wind development on state lands by identifying which lands are available and by streamlining the current permitting process. When I take my students to look at wind turbines, they cannot understand why there is any controversy about siting and wonder why there aren't more turbines on the ridges here. I wonder too!

Yours sincerely,

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